Introduction of Afforestation Programmes in Orissa

6606. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced some schemes to undertake afforestation programmes in the River Valley projects with 100 per cent central assistance;

(b) whether any such scheme has been introduced in the catchment area of the river valleys in Orissa;

(c) if so, the details of the schemes and afforestation started during the Seventh Five Year Plan as well as the Eighth Five Year Plan so far;

(d) to what extent success has been achieved in soil conservation by implementing these schemes; and

(e) the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reserved Forest Land

6607. SHRI SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain areas have been reserved as forest land in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the names of such areas State and Territory-wise;

(c) whether some schemes of forests have been undertaken in areas mentioned in part (b);

(d) if so, the names of such schemes State and Territory-wise with amount involved in each project;

(e) whether Government propose to take some measures to ensure that forest areas are not encroached illegally; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Well wooded forest lands generally free from encumberances are declared as Reserved Forests under the provisions of Indian Forest Act, 1927 or respective State Forest Acts during land settlement operations. Total extent of Reserved Forest in India is 41.5 million hacteres.

The records of the Reserved Forest areas are maintained at the district level in the States and Union Territories.

(c) and (d) No specific scheme is undertaken exclusively for Reserved Forest areas since they are by and large in good conditions.

(c) and (f) The following preventive and control measures are taken to check illegal encroachments on the forest lands:—

(i) National Forest Policy, 1988 envisages effective action to prevent and arrest the trend of encroachments on forest land.

(ii) The Forest Policy also stipulates that people's participation in management of the forests should be encouraged.

(iii) Under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 encroachment of forest land has been declared an offence.

(iv) State Governments carry out eviction of encroachments periodically alongwith Revenue authorities.

(v) Protection measures are strengthened in vulnerable areas by deploying mobile patrolling parties and establishing wireless network.